



Homeland Security

Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Newsletter Vol. 9, #6 | April 2019

The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) supports the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as it secures the nation while preserving individual liberty, fairness, and equality under the law.



Acting Secretary McAleenan Statement on Sri Lanka Attacks

Release Date: April 21, 2019

"On behalf of the men and women of DHS, I want to express condolences and sympathies for those affected by the Easter Sunday attack on multiple hotels and places of worship in Sri Lanka.

"DHS stands resolutely with persons of every faith who look to worship in safety and peace. We will continue our work with partners around the world to ensure that all are able to worship without fear.

"As the Department has made clear regarding attacks on members of multiple faiths: religious liberty for all is a hallmark of this country and attacks on peaceful people in their places of worship are abhorrent and must not be allowed.

"At this time we are not aware of any current, credible or active threat domestically. Regardless, the Department is doing all it can to protect the homeland from potential violent extremists.

"We will continue to monitor the situation as the response to this tragedy unfolds and investigations continue."

Message from Acting Secretary Kevin K. McAleenan

Release Date: April 10, 2019



As I assume the role of Acting Secretary of Homeland Security, I look forward to working to support the men and women of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as they carry out the critical missions that keep our country safe. I'd also like to extend my sincere thanks to Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen for her service to the country as the sixth Secretary of Homeland Security, and for her tireless work on behalf of the people and organizations of DHS. She deserves

our enduring respect and appreciation for her leadership, and I'm personally grateful for it.

In many roles in my career at U.S. Customs and Border Protection, I've had the opportunity to work with virtually every component of DHS, and have witnessed the extraordinary commitment and steadfast resolve of the men and women across this Department. While we face many challenges, including a growing crisis on our southern border, I know that, working together, we can overcome them. I've also learned that the true strength of DHS is our people, and during my time as Acting Secretary, I pledge to be an aggressive advocate for you.

I look forward to working alongside you to accomplish the vast mission of securing our homeland with honor, integrity and vigilance. Let's power on. The American people are counting on us.

Kevin K. McAleenan

Acting Secretary of Homeland Security

With honor and integrity, we will safeguard the American people, our homeland, and our values.

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DHS Establishes New Office for Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention

Release Date: April 19, 2019

Today Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Kevin K. McAleenan released the following statement on the establishment of the new DHS Office for Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention:

“I am pleased to announce the establishment of the DHS Office for Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention. DHS remains committed to preventing all forms of terrorism, including both international and domestic, as well as preventing acts of targeted violence such as racially motivated violence. This new office supports the direction the President outlined in the National Strategy for Counterterrorism and will enable DHS to more effectively coordinate our resources and capabilities to better serve the needs of states and local communities. By expanding the aperture of terrorism prevention to include targeted violence, DHS can help communities better protect themselves against a broader range of current and emerging threats. This new office will focus on moving beyond ‘whole of government’ efforts to ‘whole of society’ and give prominence to the needs and leadership of states and local communities.”

The Office for Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention widens the scope of previous Departmental efforts to ensure that all forms of violence, regardless of the ideological motivation, are being addressed. The Office will leverage, coordinate, and build upon the broad range of prevention activities that are currently implemented across DHS, including grants, community awareness and law enforcement awareness briefings, threat assessments, information sharing, and reporting of tips and leads.

CRCL Launches Mentoring Program for DHS Women in Law Enforcement

In March CRCL concluded Women’s History Month with launching a mentoring program for DHS women who serve as law enforcement officers. The DHS Women in Law Enforcement (WLE) mentoring program is designed to utilize mentoring as a valuable career development tool and networking opportunity.

WLE’s 72 program participants (36 mentor-mentee pairs) are located across the country, and work across DHS Components, to include U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Transportation Security Administration (TSA), the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC), and the U.S. Secret Service.

The six-month pilot program will include a mid-cycle evaluation, and programs that will focus on transitioning from non-supervisory positions to supervisory roles and the range of post-retirement options. The program will conclude in September 2019.

CRCL Participates in City-to-City Exchange Program



In an ongoing partnership with the U.S. Department of State, CRCL facilitated a city-to-city exchange program with a delegation of civil society members and local government representatives from the Paris region of Ile-de-France, focused on countering all forms of violent extremism and targeted violence, including through enforcement of civil rights and civil liberties. The delegation visited Los Angeles, California and Chicago, Illinois.

For this city-to-city exchange, the delegation had a number of objectives for the trip including knowledge sharing and expertise on building civil society institutions, analyzing potential drivers of violent extremism and targeted violence in society, discussing strategies to positively support susceptible individuals, and exploring successful rehabilitation programs to reintegrate disenfranchised individuals to prevent violence and promote alternative constructive engagement.

The visit began in Chicago, Illinois, where the delegation conducted a series of meetings with representatives from local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and state and local government agencies to discuss efforts to prevent terrorism and counter all forms of violent extremism and targeted violence in the Chicago area.

In Los Angeles, the delegation continued the exchange program with a series of meetings with representatives from area NGOs, advocacy organizations, and academia.

Since 2011, CRCL has participated in the city-to-city exchange program, which encourages the sharing of best practices at local levels, with delegations from Belgium, Germany, Sweden, France, the United Kingdom, and Canada.

CRCL Provides Recommendations to State and Local Emergency Managers on Improving the Delivery of Disaster Assistance to Survivors

CRCL recently sent letters to emergency managers in California, Florida, Puerto Rico, Texas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands providing overarching recommendations on how to improve the delivery of disaster assistance to all survivors, including persons with disabilities.

Throughout 2018, CRCL and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Office of Equal Rights and Office of Disability Integration and Coordination conducted a number of listening sessions to hear from organizations and individuals from governmental, non-profit, and voluntary organizations from locations affected by the disastrous hurricanes and wildfires of 2017-2018. CRCL and FEMA engaged community stakeholders on challenges related to accessibility for persons with disabilities during response and recovery efforts after the disasters.

In the letter to emergency managers, CRCL shared a [summary of the feedback](#) received during the listening sessions, which included concerns as well as praise for effective practices for meeting the needs of persons with disabilities in disasters. In addition, the letter featured overarching recommendations to improve the delivery of disaster services. Examples of the recommendations include:

- **Preparedness:** Proactively include organizations that support and provide services to individuals with disabilities in emergency planning and preparedness efforts, including exercises.
- **Evacuation:** Train first responders and volunteers on disability awareness and different rescue strategies that are safe and effective for individuals with a variety of disabilities.
- **Effective Communication Access for People with Disabilities:** Increase the use of accessible social media for transmitting alerts, warnings, and real-time response information to individuals with disabilities, in addition to traditional systems used.
- **Sheltering:** Ensure physical accessibility of facilities and strengthen accommodations for individuals with behavioral and sensory disabilities.
- **Long-Term Recovery:** Fully integrate disability stakeholders into long-term recovery planning activities.

The full list of recommendations are available on CRCL's webpage, [Civil Rights in Emergencies and Disasters](#). DHS is committed to providing technical assistance to all state, local, territorial, and tribal emergency management agencies on improving the delivery of disaster assistance to persons with disabilities.

CRCL Leads Community Engagement Meetings and Roundtable in Atlanta



This month, CRCL led its quarterly community engagement roundtable in Atlanta, along with other meetings with local community and faith-based leaders.

CRCL first met with Jewish community leaders hosted by the Atlanta office of the American Jewish Committee. Attendees asked questions and shared concerns regarding anti-Semitism and recent hate crimes, domestic terrorism, immigration issues, protecting houses of worship, and nonprofit security grants.

CRCL encouraged community leaders to participate in its Atlanta roundtable, and committed to connecting community leaders with their local protective security advisors.

Following the meeting CRCL convened its community engagement roundtable, co-hosted by the Atlanta Jewish Committee, who gave an overview of their work to domestically and internationally safeguard the rights and freedoms of all people. Representatives from TSA spoke on their new use of X-ray technology which could require less baggage checks. CRCL also presented the law enforcement awareness briefing which opened a conversation on violent extremism, influence of the media, use and misuse of social media by terrorists, and how diverse religious and ethnic communities can work together to educate the public on their culture and beliefs. CRCL will schedule a community awareness briefing at a future roundtable, and assist community leaders with securing DHS participation at an upcoming town hall.

Lastly, CRCL met with African American, Ethiopian, and Somali community leaders in neighboring Clarkston, Georgia. Attendees discussed ICE enforcement (including aggressive enforcement in sensitive locations such as schools and community centers), detention conditions and visitation rights, immigration application delays, and violent extremism and prevention. CRCL will introduce the community to the new local ICE community relations officer, and obtain information on ICE enforcement in sensitive locations.

FY 2019 Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) Notice of Funding Released

FY 2019 NSGP will provide \$60 million to support security-related investments and activities for nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack.

Eligible nonprofit organizations must apply for FY 2019 NSGP through their State Administrative Agency (SAA). A list of SAA points of contact is available at <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/28689?id=6363>. Nonprofit organizations may not apply directly to FEMA for FY 2019 NSGP funds.

The FY 2019 NSGP Notice of Funding Opportunity and all related documents are available at <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/178521>.

Below are three tips for nonprofit organizations interested in applying for FY 2019 NSGP:

1. Contact your SAA to obtain information on the application deadline and any SAA specific requirements at <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/28689?id=6363>.
2. Review the FY 2019 NSGP NOFO available at <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/178521>.
3. Review the *Frequently Asked Questions for Nonprofit Organizations* document also available at <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/178521>.

For more information please contact fema-gpd-pdsb@fema.dhs.gov.

CRCL on the Road, April 2019

April 3 – Chicago, Illinois

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

April 10-13 – El Paso, Texas

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

April 29 – Birmingham, Alabama

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

April 29-May 2 – New York, New York

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

Additional information, and contacting us

The goal of this periodic newsletter is to inform members of the public about the activities of the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, including: how to file complaints; ongoing and upcoming projects; opportunities to offer comments and feedback; etc. We distribute our newsletters via our stakeholder email list and make them available to community groups for redistribution. Issues of the newsletter can be accessed online at: www.dhs.gov/crcl-newsletter.

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, want to request back issues, or have other comments or questions, please let us know by emailing crcloutreach@dhs.gov. For more information, including how to make a civil rights or civil liberties complaint about DHS activities, visit: www.dhs.gov/crcl.

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